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September 22, 2020

**RE: Making Admission or Placement Determinations Based on Sex in Facilities Under Community Planning and Development Housing Programs**

**Proposed Rule FR-6152-P-01**

**HUD-2020-0047-0001**

*Submitted Electronically via beta.regulations.gov*

To Whom It May Concern:

The Coalition for Jewish Values (CJV), representing over 1500 traditional, Orthodox rabbis in matters of public policy, strongly supports the proposed regulatory change.

The presence of men in women's shelters directly undermines the very purpose of single-sex and sex-specific emergency shelters set up to serve women and their minor children fleeing male violence or homelessness. Women-only spaces are critical for women seeking to heal from the trauma of sexual and physical abuse they've suffered at the hands of intimate partners, male family members, or other men.

This is not merely a theoretical concern. Women in emergency shelters have already been subjected to violence, assault, voyeurism, and harassment from men who claimed to identify as women to gain entry. HUD's 2016 regulation tied the hands of shelter operators and exposed women and their minor children to increased risk of harm.

Thus the CJV strongly supports HUD's proposal to repeal the portions of its 2016 regulation that forced HUD-funded single-sex and sex-specific emergency shelters to accommodate men based on self-declared "gender identity" rather than biological sex.

Efforts to uphold the rights of others must not undermine the rights to privacy and safety of (biological) women and their children, or place additional burdens on resource-strapped emergency shelters.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Yaakov Menken'.

Rabbi Yaakov Menken  
Managing Director